

## HOPE for Hyndman Charter School

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

August 27, 2015 - 6:00 p.m.

The HOPE for Hyndman Charter School Board of Trustees held a regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at HOPE for Hyndman Charter School. *Those present:*

Aiko Malynda Maurer – CEO  
Brigette Emerick – Board President  
Jerry Leydig – Board Vice President  
Christine McKenzie - Board Secretary  
Angela Coughenour – Board member  
Ron Gibbner – Board member  
Ron Scritchfield – Board member  
Jessie Spiker – Board member  
Jennie Hetzer – Faculty Representative to the Board  
Thea Hosselrode -- Board Administrative Assistant  
Brad Allison -- Attorney  
Austin Christner  
Joni Miller  
Carey Ohler  
Dina Morrissey  
Twyla Haines  
Glenn Shaffer  
Joan Dodge  
John Dodge  
Jeff Kimmel

The meeting was called to order by B. Emerick at 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a prayer by Mrs. Emerick. B. Emerick then did a board-member roll call.

**Agenda:** The meeting agenda was adopted with a motion by A Coughenour, seconded by J Spiker and carried. (Unan.)

**Public comments:** None

**Secretary's report:** A motion to approve the secretary's report of July 30, 2015, (in Google Drive) was made by A Coughenour, seconded by C McKenzie and carried. (Unan.)

**Treasurer's report:** None

**Old Business:** None

**Representatives to the Board:**

Bryce Emerick was not present.

J. Hetzer reported that she heard a lot of positive comments the first week. Faculty are very upbeat and positive. They have had a good start to the school year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Facilities & Technology:** The committee did not meet. They will meet Tuesday, September 1 at 3:30 p.m.

**Governance / Personnel:** The committee did not meet. They communicated via email. They will meet September 14 at 9:00 a.m.

**Academics & Athletics:** The committee did not meet. They will meet Tuesday, September 8 at 3:30 p.m.

**Educational Association:** The committee did not meet. They will meet Monday, August 31 at 6 p.m.

**Finance:** The committee did not meet. Ryan may be at the meeting next month. The date/time will be determined at a later date.

**Board Retreat:** B. Emerick reminded the Board that the Board Retreat to discuss goals and plan for next year will be held Sunday, September 13, 2015, from 2 to 6 p.m.

**New Business:**

**Board:**

A motion to accept the resignation of Board Member, Mr. Brett Shaffer, effective August 11, 2015, was made by J. Leydig, seconded by R Scritchfield and carried. (Unan.)

A motion to approve the personnel committee recommendation of Mr. Austin Christner as a new board member to replace Mr. Brett Shaffer was made by J Spiker, seconded by C McKenzie and carried. (Unan.)

B. Emerick stated that Austin was a student here last year and will bring a unique perspective to the Board. He was interviewed and the group thinks he will do a good job. He will have a connection with the students.

A motion to approve the updated 2015-16 HHCS Board Committees & Members list, as per document in Google Drive, was made by A Coughenour, seconded by C McKenzie and carried. (Unan.)

One committee was split. Academics will be one committee. Athletics will be a separate committee.

Austin Christner repeated the Oath of Office and Swearing in as HHCS Board of Trustee Member. Tom Groves notarized the document signed by Austin Christner during this meeting.

**Finance:** B. Emerick handed out documents with budgeted numbers from Ryan. At 250 students, we will have a \$366,000 loss for the year. That is more than our fund balance. There was a discussion of students who have left each grade. It was stated that some think people feel like “my one kid won’t make a difference.” The reality is that they may try it and not like it. We might not be here when they get back. Ryan also sent a proposed 2017 budget to serve grades K-5. We can’t

sustain what we are doing now with our numbers. It's a harsh reality. The cost of \$15,000-\$20,000 for the Charter renewal is included in the budget.

R Gibbner asked if the fund balance is still needed if they go with the K-5 grades scenario. Answer: Yes. It includes 140 students which includes mass customized learning for older students.

J Leydig asked to address the Board in private about the budget. Attorney Allison said the Board could not do that in Executive Session.

If we stay between 250-260 students, we will be ok for next year.

A Coughenour stated that people in this area need to understand if their kids choose not to be in this school, the school may not be here. If this school goes away, the "catering" from Bedford will also go away. They won't run an Activity Bus like they do now. They won't cater to our kids if they don't have to.

J Leydig asked if there were things we did wrong that we could change. What reasons do they give us? Answer: They don't want them with older kids. Yet they put them on a bus for 2 hours with the older kids.

R Gibbner asked when the Charter renewal starts. Could we go for K-5 grades for a better chance of receiving the renewal? M Maurer stated that we have not submitted it yet, and she doesn't know what Bedford would think of that. Bedford is also looking at a deficit.

Joan Dodge asked if the school could keep the K-12 Charter but do a K-5 school. Answer: Yes, if we also offer the 6-12 classes using mass customized learning.

A Christner stated the reasons students give for leaving here are the teachers. Teachers are the reason the students aren't happy. Teachers aren't happy. That's why students are leaving. B Emerick added that they have had comments about negative attitudes from faculty.

M Maurer reported that the state is still operating without a budget. They are not paying their bills and not paying us. We have \$160,000 cash on hand today. Each payroll is \$65,000. That's 2 payrolls. The school will receive a percentage from the state. Ryan applied for a line of credit. He will hear the results of the request by Monday whether the school is approved for a \$250,000 line of credit. That equals 4 payrolls. We have not paid any invoices yet. Without paying our Accounts Payable, we will have enough cash on hand for 6 payrolls. Our money from the State and our income are not matching our expenses. We are on hold with purchases currently, so that we can make payroll.

A couple other schools have applied for a line of credit so we are no different.

**Policies:** None

**Personnel:**

J Spiker made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by C McKenzie. Executive Session was held for Personnel matters.

The Board entered back into Public Session.

A Coughenour made a motion, seconded by J Leydig, to approve Item 4A #1-7 of the Personnel Issues document found in Google Drive, to approve the updated 2015-16 Extra Duty/Extra Pay list, to approve the updated 2015-16 Substitute List, to approve the updated 2015-16 Coaches List, to approve the updated 2015-16 21<sup>st</sup> Century List, and to approve the updated Nurse Job Description. Motion carried. (Unan.)

C McKenzie made a motion to table item 4A #8, seconded by J Spiker and carried. (Unan.)

M Maurer passed out her letter of resignation. She stated that the Board needs to have documentation before discussing information in Executive Session. Her letter was not yet brought to the table for them to discuss. Attorney Allison stated that under law personnel issues can be addressed in open session with a written request. He told M Maurer that she should have known it was going to be addressed because she created the agenda. M Maurer made a written request for it to be discussed in open session.

M Maurer stated that she is resigning and taking a position at another place. She will do what she needs to do for the Board. She asked them to please consider the request. She offered 2 different dates for the separation.

The Board spent several minutes reading the letter from M Maurer. J Leydig made a motion to table the request, seconded by R Scritchfield. Motion carried. (Unan.)

J Spiker made a motion to table Item 4G (the updated contracts with Okard, Inc. (Dr. Otis) and Old School Consultants (Mr. Vent)), seconded by J Leydig. Motion carried. (Unan.)

**Food Service:** None

**Technology:** None

**Athletics/Transportation:**

A motion to accept sealed bids with no reserve for the Astro van was made by C McKenzie, seconded by J Leydig and carried. (Unan.)

The Inspection ran out on the Astro van, and it will not pass. It runs and has 200,000 miles on it.

A Coughenour made a motion to open all winter and spring coaching positions and begin accepting letters of interest, seconded by C McKenzie. All accepted the motion except R Gibbner; he opposed the motion. The motion carried.

**Maintenance:** None

**Instruction:** None

**General Operations:**

A motion to renew UPMC health insurance effective October 1, 2015, with employees to begin paying their deductible effective December 1, 2015, was made by J Leydig, seconded by J Spiker and carried. (Unan.)

A motion to approve the 2015-16 Student Assistance Program Agreement between HHCS and Bedford Somerset Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities to provide a Mental Health Liaison for our SAP Team was made by A Coughenour, seconded by J Spiker and carried. (Unan.)

**21<sup>st</sup> Century:** None

**Miscellaneous:** After discussion of the Class 2016 Senior trip, A Coughenour made a motion to table the request, seconded by J Spiker. Motion carried. (Unan.)

A Christner asked how much out of pocket cost there would be per student. Answer from C Ohler: Each student (on average) has \$310 in his/her account, and the class will have 4 fundraisers this year. The total cost is \$705. All parents were in favor of the trip and cost. The students already have 40 percent saved for the trip. Chaperones don't have to pay for their own trips. C Ohler has banked her fundraiser sales to pay for chaperones. If the class goes through a third party company who specializes in student trips, the required student/chaperone ratio is 10-1. A meeting was held in June for parents. There was good attendance. The next meeting is in September.

A Christner stated that the kids should not have to pay out of pocket for the trip. C McKenzie stated the parents should not have to pay more than \$400 out of pocket.

**Public comment:** M Maurer submitted a resignation that tomorrow is her last day. She appreciated the opportunity to work here and build this school. She understands that she is breaking contract. This is not something she wanted to do. This is not how she wanted to handle this. She has been in contact with a lawyer because she thought this may happen.

Attorney Allison asked who her lawyer is and advised the Board not to address anything with her. Allison will only speak with Maurer's lawyer. She will email her attorney's name to Allison.

J Spiker made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by J Leydig. Executive Session was held for personnel matters.

At 9:01 p.m. the Board entered back into public session.

J Leydig made a motion to adjourn, seconded by J Spiker.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Submitted by Thea Hosselrode  
Board Administrative Assistant